

Dedication of 1600 Block Wednesday Marks Epoch in City's History

STORY OF BLOCK BOOSTING MOVE IS INTERESTING

Organization of 1600 Business Men Was Formed Only Last March.

ALREADY IT HAS DONE MUCH

Every Meeting Has Seen Step Forward Taken Till Results Are as Seen Today.

The 1600 Block Business Men's association, although it has been organized but a few short months, has accomplished marvels. Believing that the block was not getting the business it was entitled to, the boosters of the district held several preliminary meetings at which time the matter of co-operation for mutual assistance was discussed.

March 6, 1914, the first regular meeting of the association was held at the Rock Island house. Officers were elected as follows:

President—A. J. Riess.
Vice president—George P. Herzog.
Secretary—William M. Beal.
Treasurer—J. A. Waddell.
It was decided to hold elections annually, on the fourth Monday in December.

At the second meeting held March 12, at noon at the Rock Island house, speakers from the 1600 block, Davenport, were the guests and gave timely suggestions as to the methods to pursue.

Adopt a Slogan.

The name 1600 Block Business Men's association and the slogan "The White Block" were formally adopted at the third meeting held March 23. A committee was appointed to secure prices on painting store fronts white. Committee also named undertook work of having removed all objectionable swinging signs in the block.

Mayor H. M. Schriver and the rest of the city commission were guests of the association at the fourth meeting, March 31. Resolutions were passed favoring the removal of the market place on Seventeenth street and Second avenue to Flatiron square, south of Central hose station and the erection of a comfort station on Market square. The city commission was requested to pass an ordinance compelling uniformity of signs. Contract for painting fronts was awarded to Lerch & Greve, lowest bidders. A finance committee was named.

A publicity committee was selected at the fifth meeting, April 9, and May 29 named as opening day for the block. Merchants were asked to secure souvenirs for the occasion. Property owners in the block were guests of the club at the sixth meeting, April 20. They consented to have the upper stories of buildings painted white.

Street decorations and other features for formal opening discussed at seventh meeting of the association, April 27.

Set Opening Date.

The date for the formal opening of block was changed to May 27 at the eighth meeting of the association, May 4. A band was hired for the day. The Central baseball team secured to play under the name "1600." Strecker & Lewis started painting the upper stories. Many of the objectionable signs were taken down.

At the last meeting of the association May 14, the publicity committee announced securing brackets for ornamental posts, together with flags and pennants bearing the name "1600 Block." Complete plans for opening day were made.

BILLINGS & HERZOG.

Billings & Herzog, who conduct a women's, misses' and children's wearing apparel store, are among the more recent arrivals among the business firms in this city. Located at 1511-1513 Second avenue since December 4, 1913, when they launched on their first business venture, the experience which they gained in the east stood them in good stead, for the growth in their business has been remarkable.

G. P. Herzog, member of the firm attributes this success to truthful advertising. O. W. Billings, the other member of the firm says that through carrying a popular priced merchandise the public has been led to take interest in the store.

The two men came to Rock Island from Buffalo, N. Y. Mr. Billings was active manager of the buying department of the Sweeney company, the largest department store in Buffalo, and has had ten years' experience in the work. Mr. Herzog for 25 years had been buyer for the Sweeney company.

Before entering the store they now occupy the men had it entirely remodeled until the interior was practically new.

The Billings & Herzog firm is connected with the Jay company of New York. Hillman's in Chicago is one among the 49 stores which buy their goods through this company. Since such large amounts of merchandise are purchased, the local men claim that they can get their goods cheaper and sell cheaper than the average.

The Billings & Herzog company employ ten salesladies and when they have special bargain days, as is often the case it requires 16 to handle the trade.

The front of their store is new and

OFFICERS OF 1600 BLOCK ASSOCIATION



A. J. Riess.
President.



George P. Herzog.
Vice President.



W. M. Beal.
Secretary.



J. A. Waddell.
Treasurer.

HOTEL DATES TO MIDDLE THIRTIES

Rock Island House Oldest Institution Which Is Still in Existence.

FIRST WAS OPENED IN 1837

Has Been in Use Continuously Since Except During Building Operations.

Without a doubt the oldest Rock Island institution which is still in existence is the Rock Island house. It is a landmark, not only of the block but of the city and this section of the state as well. It was founded here in 1837 by the late Captain Henry Powars, father of Henry Powars, who was one of the city's pioneers. The Rock Island house is older than the city by several years.

Captain Powars opened the house on July 4, 1837, with a grand ball, which attracted settlers for a large radius. David Hawes followed Mr. Powars as manager of the house, and Stephen Woodin was the last landlord before the place was sold to Isaac Negus in 1870.

There is a vast difference between the first Rock Island house and the present one which stands on the north-west corner of Second avenue and Seventeenth street.

The old Rock Island house can be recalled by the older generation as being a two-story frame structure, with a large veranda in the front.

Bought By Isaac Negus.

Isaac Negus, father of W. O. Negus, the present owner of the building, purchased the place in 1870. For five years he conducted the old hotel and then decided to erect a new structure. The old place was torn down and during the summer of 1874 work on the erection of the new building was started. John Work was awarded the contract and he sublet the brick contract to Peter Farrell. It required over a year to complete the building, as it now stands four stories. In those days it was considered a sky-scraper.

The first manager of the new hotel was A. M. Gule, who had charge of the hotel for four years. He was succeeded by Charles Jarvis who spent several years as landlord, when W. H. Munger and son, the latter, J. Frank Munger, now employed at the head offices of the Modern Woodmen, leased the place.

W. O. Negus, the present owner and son of the man who had erected the building, then took charge and he was landlord for over 12 years. The Harper House company then leased the place.

New Company Formed.

A year ago the Rock Island House company was formed and the hotel remodeled and made up-to-date in every respect. J. A. Waddell, an experienced hotel man, is president and manager of the company; A. F. Zimmer is treasurer and H. C. Luchmann, vice president.

The hostelry closed in the summer of 1913 and work on remodeling the place commenced immediately. Tuesday evening, Dec. 2, 1913, it was thrown open to the public.

Fifty thousand dollars was expended on making it one of the finest hotels in the tri-cities. Fifteen extra rooms were installed and 80 guest rooms are located on the second, third and fourth floors. All are electrically lighted with hot and cold running water in each room.

J. W. JONES LOAN CO.

The J. W. Jones Loan company, at 1619 Second avenue, is one of the oldest established institutions of its kind in the state. It was instituted in Rock Island in 1884, and for 30 years has enjoyed a large patronage.

The Jones Loan company is not one of the common "three-ball" variety, but is a collateral bank, where the goods of the people are deposited and protected.

Mr. Jones established his business in this city in 1884. In February of that year, just previous to opening his stand he went before the city clerk and asked for a pawnbroker's license. Not having one on hand, and in fact not knowing what such a license was, the clerk framed up one, and Mr. Jones paid \$10 for the permit.

Mr. Jones states that when he first opened his business where the Leo Victor shoe hospital now stands, he paid but \$15 a month rent, and had to borrow the first \$15.

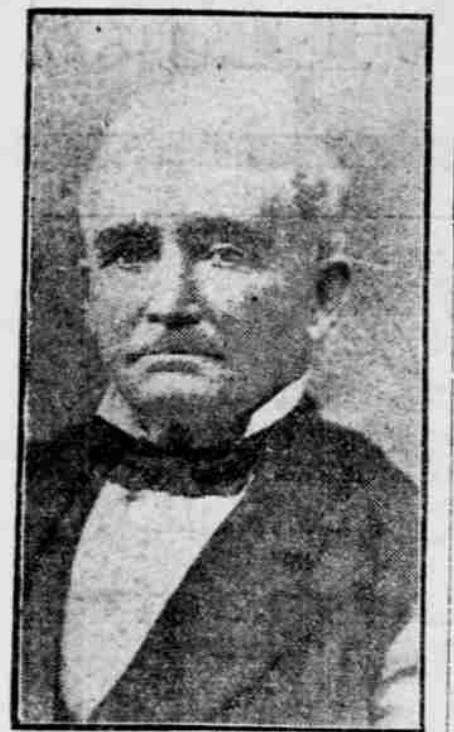
But the finances of the company did not remain in such condition long, and soon Mr. Jones began to reap the benefits of the policy of a square dealing which has been the strong feature of the expansion of his business.

With the exception of short intervals he remained in the 1600 block a number of years ago, having located at his present stand. The business of the firm is principally loans, diamonds and jewelry. The place is a collateral bank, and boasts of always having protected the property entrusted to it, not having once been robbed.

Mr. Jones is proud of the business and the 1600 block. He has long been a strong booster for the interests of the 1600 block, even before the association was formed.

He is now the more happy since the merchants and owners have united and in harmony are pushing forward for the best interests of all. Mr. Jones' slogan, the one used in all of his advertisements, is "Jones for Jones."

ROCK ISLAND HOUSE BUILDER AND OWNER



The Late Isaac Negus.



W. O. Negus.

NEARLY ANYTHING TO BE HAD HERE

Necessities of Life—Food, Clothing and Lodging—All in '600 Block.

PRICE TO SUIT CUSTOMER

From Box of Matches to Complete Furnishings for House One Need Go No Further.

Years ago nearly all the merchandise purchased in Rock Island was handled by merchants with places of business in the 1600 block. Times have changed considerably since then. Now the needs of the public are greater and more varied than they were in the old days. But nevertheless what could have been said about the 1600 block then may still be said: "You can buy anything you want in the 1600 block."

One need not go beyond the block to secure the necessities of life—food, drink, clothing and a place to sleep. The food, for the most part, must be taken cooked, though raw and smoked meats and fruits and candies are to be had. If one desires first class hotel service he can find it here. He can also find cheaper lodgings and moderate priced restaurant service.

If one desires to travel he can find a complete outfit of clothing for man or woman, with trunks, suitcases and other necessary paraphernalia. If he is short of ready cash there is a place where he can borrow it or buy jewelry. If one wishes to set up in housekeeping a full equipment of furniture may be procured here.

You can buy smokers' supplies of all kinds in the 1600 block. You also can purchase tickets for an evening's entertainment at the theatre. You can buy a nickel's worth of pool or billiards, and you can step across the street and purchase a piano, an organ or other musical instruments to listen up your home.

Medicine for Sick.
Should you become ill you can buy medicine. You can secure a mild or a strong drink. You have a chance to furnish a house, or mend your shoes in the 1600 block, and should you desire a suit, be you a man, woman, boy or girl, you can get just what you want.

You can buy nice fresh fruit or walk

TWO OFFICERS OF THE HOTEL COMPANY



H. C. Luchmann.
Vice President.



A. F. Zimmer.
Secretary-Treasurer.

DANCE IN STREET BIG FEATURE OF THE DEDICATION

Asphalt Paving in 1600 Block Will Be Reserved for Terpsichorean Revels.

MUSIC BY 20 PIECE-BAND

Street Cars Detoured and Other Traffic Barred—Parade Feature of the Evening.

The people of the tri-cities and the surrounding country will be the guests of the 1600 Block association Wednesday evening in what promises to be the biggest event of its kind ever held here. Gaiety and merriment will reign supreme.

The parade, the opening feature of the evening's events, will leave the 1600 block at 8 o'clock.

Probably the biggest feature as planned will be a dance which will take place in the evening at the conclusion of the parade. Stroehle's band of 20 pieces has been secured to provide the music for the parade, and it will be later seated in the middle of the street to give a program for dancing.

An enclosure of the street with ropes will be made, with entrance at intervals and the dancing will be open to all who wish to indulge. Second avenue paving being of asphalt it is ideal for the tango. Tango pumps may be left at home, and the dancers may wear their common ordinary every-day footwear, and dance just as well as on the smooth floor with the rubber peddled sole. The dancing will last for several hours. It will be the biggest event of its kind ever staged in the tri-cities, and in itself will attract a crowd.

The idea of the dance in the street was conceived by the members of the association, who thought long and deeply for plans to make the occasion a most novel one.

Detour Street Cars.

President A. J. Riess of the 1600 Block association conferred with Mayor H. M. Schriver and J. G. Hutton, superintendent of the Tri-City Railway company, and they both put their O. K. on the plan.

After the dancing begins street cars will detour to Third avenue via Seventeenth street, and then the conveyances will return to the proper route on Second avenue. The block will be closed to all other traffic.

The parade will be one of the big features of the event. Following the police, at the head, will appear Stroehle's band. Mayor H. M. Schriver and the other city commissioners will follow in an automobile. Another machine will contain the officers of the 1600 Block association, and then the 1600 block baseball team in uniform will appear. Following will come the merchants of the block.

The parade will leave the 1600 block, pass west on Second avenue to Fifteenth street, south on Fifteenth street to Third avenue, east on Third avenue to Twentieth street, and thence north on Twentieth street to Second avenue, returning to the 1600 block.

DEDICATION PROGRAM

7.30 p. m.—Parade, formation as follows:

Platoon of police

Stroehle's 20-piece band.

1600 Block baseball team in uniform

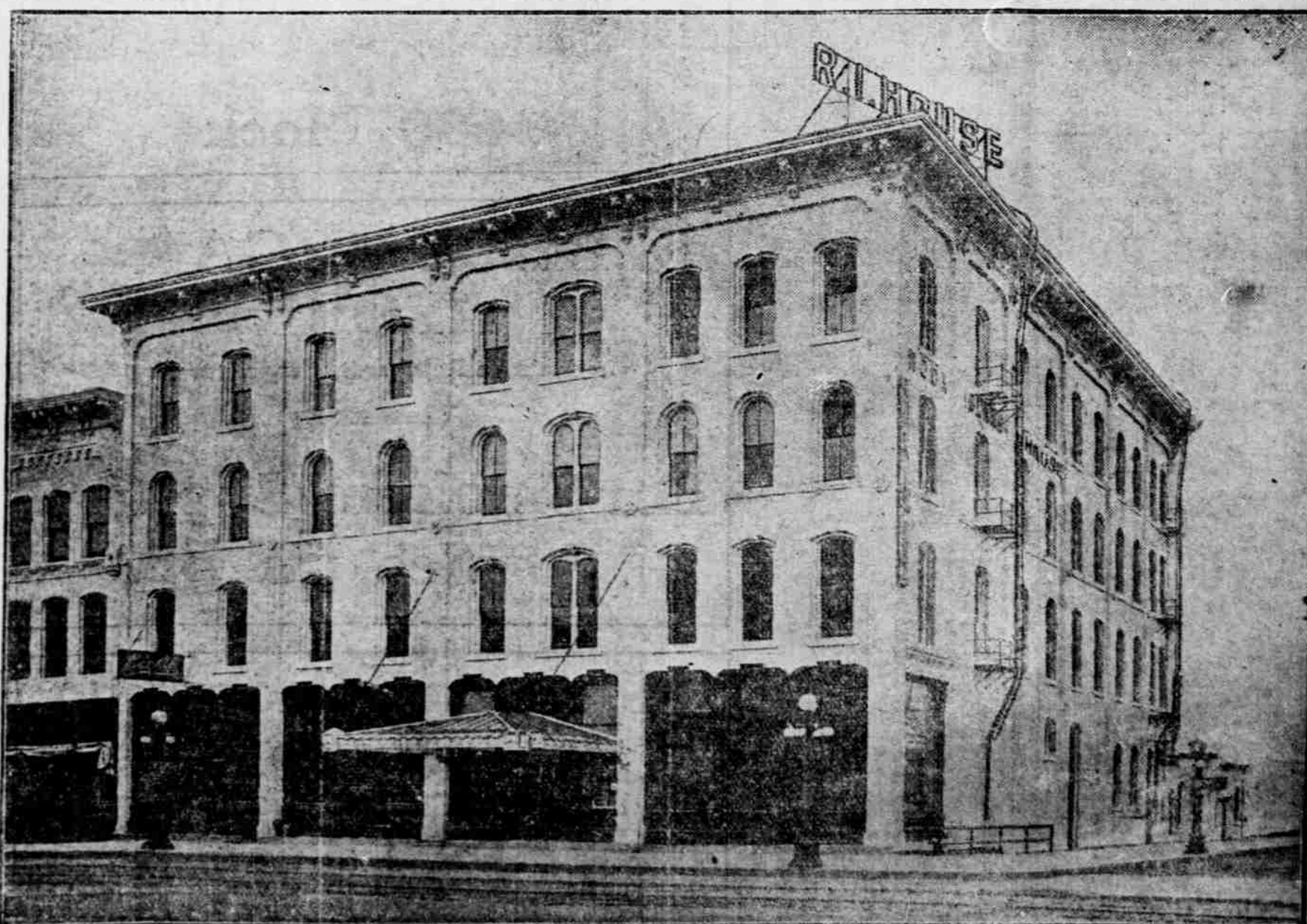
Mayor and city commissioners in auto

Merchants of the 1600 Block.

Line of march—Leave 1600 block and pass west on Second avenue; to Fifteenth street; south on Fifteenth street to Third avenue; east on Third avenue to Twentieth street; north on Twentieth street to Second avenue, and west on Second avenue to the 1600 block.

8:00 to 10:30 p. m.—Band concert and dancing on Second avenue in 1600 block. Merchants will give away souvenirs.

Western yellow pine cones, to the amount of 6,377 bushels, obtained on the Bitterroot national forest, Montana, yielded 9,482 pounds of seed. Seed was 51 cents per pound.



THE ROCK ISLAND HOUSE.